

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1 - 91 (cancelled)

92. (new) A sealing arrangement for a fuel cell , comprising:

a membrane electrode assembly having a first side and a second side;

a gas diffusion layer disposed on at least one of said first and second sides of said membrane electrode assembly;

a separator plate including a first set of flow channels, said separator plate being disposed next to said gas diffusion layer; and

a gasket disposed between said membrane electrode assembly and said separator plate and having an outer perimeter portion defining an opening which receives said gas diffusion layer, said gasket including at least one first tab portion extending into said opening between said gas diffusion layer and said separator plate.

93. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 92, wherein said at least one tab portion is integrally formed with said outer perimeter portion.

94. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 92, wherein said gasket includes a carrier layer and an elastic seal layer mounted thereto.

95. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 94, wherein said carrier is adhesively bonded to said membrane electrode assembly.

96. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 92, wherein said gasket is adhesively bonded to said membrane electrode assembly.

97. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 92, wherein said gasket

includes an elastomeric sealing bead engaging said separator plate.

98. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 92, wherein said at least one tab portion includes a plurality of tab portions extending into said opening between said gas diffusion layer and said separator plate.

99. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 92, wherein said gas diffusion layer includes at least one cut out portion on an edge portion thereof, said gasket including at least one second tab portion received in said at least one cut out portion of said gas diffusion layer.

100. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 99, wherein said at least one second tab portion is disposed adjacent to said at least one first tab portion.

101. (new) The sealing arrangement according to claim 99, wherein said at least one second tab portion is adhesively bonded to said membrane electrode assembly.